

How to Conduct a Safe Open Burn



**Permit Required ~ January 15th thru May 1st
10 AM to 4 PM**

Each year fires started by home and landowners burn thousands of acres of land and cost taxpayers thousands of dollars to suppress. These blazes hurt both the environment and the economy by burning important wildlife habitat, prime recreation facilities, and valuable natural resources. The impacts of major human-caused wildland fires last for years, and even decades, and can permanently change the way these lands are managed for future public use.



Open burning requires a permit

- Obtain one from your local forest warden or fire chief
- Follow the proper procedure in your community for acquiring a permit prior to burning
- Adhere to its instructions and regulations

Manage your fire

- Keep fire suppression tools handy: a charged water hose, pump, shovel, rake, or other firefighting implements should be on hand before you begin your burn
- Extinguish your fire at first sign of fire going out of control, such as: increased smoke and flames, and if fire spreads beyond the planned area
- Be aware of changes in weather behavior such as wind speed and direction change

Monitor the burn closely until it is dead out

- Never leave your fire unattended
- When done, drown with water and drown again; be sure it is cold to touch
- If you can't suppress it, call your local fire department at 911

For more information about how to prevent wildfires while permit burning, contact your local Forest Warden/Fire Chief or the State District Fire Warden in your county at:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/firecont/direct/firewardenlist.pdf>